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EXAMINER
DINH, T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2041

AIR MAIL

DATE MAILED:

04/25/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/689,732

Applicant(s)

BABIN, ANDRE

Examiner

Tuan T Dinh

Art Unit

2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 October 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Page 8, line 9, change "base wall 12" to --bottom wall 12--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Regarding claim 1, line 11, add "of the circuit card" after --connection position--

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The specification is silent regarding "the associated connector," claim 1, lines 16-17; "sliding member," claim 5, line 2, claim 20, line 3, "retaining means," claim 8, line 2; "mounting member," claim 20, line 4 and claim 21, line 2".

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 8-10 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 8, the phrase "retaining means...defined in said intermediate member" is not understood.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-7, 11-20, 22, and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lund et al (U. S. Patent 5,815,377).

As best understood to claims 1 and 20, Lund discloses a system for removable connecting a circuit card (13, column 2, line 42) to a connector (11) of an electronic device (not shown) as shown in figures 1-6 comprising a support structure (15, column 2, line 43). The circuit card (13) is supported by the support structure and displaceable relative, so that the support structure is adapted to be slidably inserted along a first axis within the electronic device to a first position. The system also comprises an actuator (44, column 3, line 5) operating to selectively displace the circuit card along a second axis from the first position to a connection position. The connection position of the circuit card is coupled to the connector of the device and disconnected when the circuit card disengaging from the connector of the device (column 3, lines 1-29).

As to claim 2, Lund discloses a system as shown in figures 1, 4-6 wherein in the first position, the connection portion of the circuit card is in register with the associated connector of the device (column 3, lines 4-9).

As to claim 3, Lund discloses a system as shown in figures 1-6 wherein the second axis is orthogonal to the first axis (column 3, lines 21-24).

As to claim 4, Lund discloses a system and method as shown in figures 1, 4-6 wherein the actuator is effective for displacing the circuit card in a plane which is parallel to a loading plane of the circuit card within the electronic device.

As best understood to claims 5-6, Lund discloses a system as shown in figures 1-6 wherein the support structure includes a support structure as a sliding member (15, column 2, line 43) and an intermediate member (16, see figure 1) movably mounted to the sliding member. The circuit card is mounted in response to the activation of the actuator.

As best understood to claims 7, 22, Lund discloses a system as shown in figures 1-6 wherein the sliding member includes a guiding edge (see figure 1) extending along an axis perpendicular to a direction of motion of the intermediate member relative to the sliding member.

As to claims 11, 24-25, Lund discloses a system as shown in figures 1, 4-6 wherein the actuator includes a lever (53, figure 1) pivotally mounted to the sliding member (see figure 4). The lever defines a slot (45,46) that is configured to receive a transmission member (27) secured to the intermediate member.

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As to claim 12, Lund discloses a system as shown in figures 1-6 wherein the sliding and intermediate member are made in the form of plate.

As best understood to claim 20, Lund discloses a support structure as shown in figures 1-6 comprising a sliding member (15), and amounting member (16) movable mounted to the sliding member

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 13-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lund et al (U. S. Patent 5,815,377).

Regarding claims 13-19, the method steps are necessitated by the system as it discloses by Lund et al.

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Conclusion

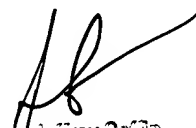
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Hillis et al, Hunt, and Summers et al disclose related art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan T Dinh whose telephone number is 703-306-5856. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on 703-308-3301. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-3431 for regular communications and 703-308-3431 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

TD
April 19, 2001


Jeffrey Gaffin
Supervisor
Tel: 703-308-3301